



Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Eliza Walton. I am the Coalition Director of the Oregon Conservation Network. The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). It is a network of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout Oregon, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 5518.

On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon I would like to share that we support the Oregon Department of Energy's work and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of their overall budget request. However, missing from this budget is funding for two vital programs ODOE runs that are lowering utility bills, improving health, and increasing resilience for Oregonians across the state.

These programs are the **Rental Home Heat Pump Program and the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program**. With the tremendous need across our state for more affordable utility bills and resilience against extreme weather, our ask is to re-invest in ODOE's two heat pump incentive programs. **\$30 million for the Rental Home Heat Pump Program and \$15 million for the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program for the next two years.**

These life-changing programs are a critical, immediate need for Oregonians concerned about high energy bills and a lack of resilience against climate harms. Without further investment from the legislature, they'll be on life support or worse in the next two years. **Full funding for these programs is an OCN priority and a priority of the Building Resilience coalition for 2025.**

As you set budgets this year, please re-invest in these programs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Walton".

Sincerely,
Eliza Walton
Coalition Director
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Phone: 208-451-4794 | email: eliza@olcv.org

Submitted On behalf of OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon | Association of Oregon Recyclers | Beyond Toxics | Bird Alliance of Oregon | Cascadia Wildlands | Center for Biological Diversity | Center for Food Safety | Central Oregon Landwatch | Climate Solutions | Defenders of Wildlife | Deschutes River Alliance | Engineers for a Sustainable Future | The Environmental Center | Environment Oregon | Food & Water Watch | Friends of Mt. Hood | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Friends of Family Farmers | Greater Hells Canyon Council | League of Women Voters of Oregon | Native Fish Society | Neighbors for Clean Air | Oceana | Oregon Coast Alliance | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon League of Conservation Voters | Oregon Land and Water Alliance | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility | Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition | Oregon Wild | Renewable Northwest | Rogue Riverkeeper | Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter | The Street Trust | Surfrider Foundation | Trout Unlimited, Oregon Council | Tualatin Riverkeepers | WaterWatch of Oregon | Wetlands Conservancy | Wild Salmon Center | Willamette Riverkeeper